

Appl. No. 09/637,493
Amtd. Dated November 12, 2004
Reply to Office action of August 12, 2004
Attorney Docket No. P13425-US1
EUS/J/JP/04-3269

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

The Applicant has canceled claims 1-23 and new claims 24-47 have been added. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 24-47 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Examiner Objections - Claims

Claims 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16 and 18 were objected under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim should refer to other claims in the alternative only. The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough review of the claims. The Applicant has canceled the claims rendering the objection moot.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 12 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter as the invention. Claims 1, 12 and 19 have been cancelled rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Fuller, et al. (US 6,711,622 hereinafter Fuller). In order to expedite allowance of this application, the Applicant has canceled claims 1-23 without prejudice and the rejection with respect to these claims is deemed to be moot. The Applicant has added new claims 24-47 to better define the intended scope of the claimed invention. The Examiner's consideration of the new claims is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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